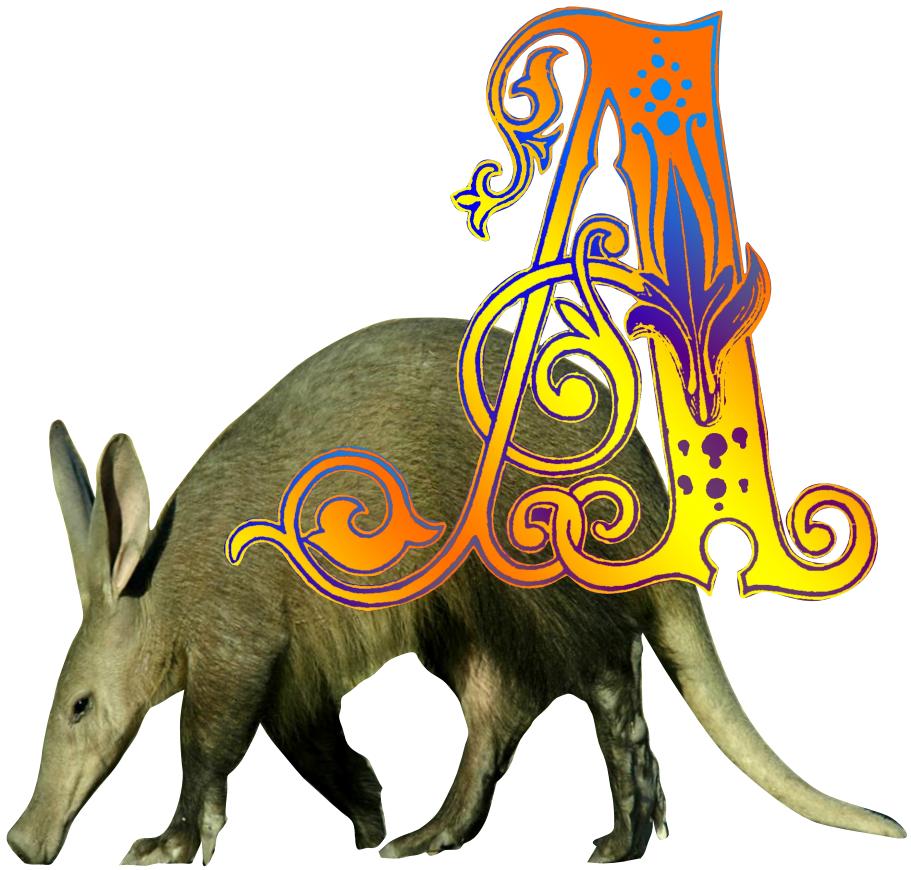


Sulgrave News



April 2007

From famine to plenty!

Or should it be the parable of five loaves and two fishes! Thank you all for the various articles sent in for this months issue. It must be a sign that Spring is here. The season of increased society activity, tomfoolery, and two for the price of one from the Parish Council.

Which reminds me. That due to the retirement of some councillors the Parish Council needs new blood to continue the sterling work it does for Sulgrave. Please consider putting yourself forward. OK, it may not be glamourous, or well paid, but it is essential for the continued health of the village to have enough representatives to share the work and continue the initiatives that make this village so special.

I hope you will join me in thanking all the Parish Councillors for their often unrecognised services during this past term

Thanks also to you all for your contributions, keep them coming.

Once again a reminder about the email address for the Sulgrave Newsletter. It is

newsletter@84f.com

Deadline for the MAY newsletter - 20th April.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER CAN BE LEFT AT THE VILLAGE SHOP.

Could I remind all contributors to provide a name and contact number with their articles- Thanks



Tom Cockeram, editor

Appletree Cottage, The Close, Greatworth, Banbury, OX17 2EB
Telephone 01295 711326, or email newsletter@84f.com

This Newsletter is an independent publication, edited and compiled by Tom Cockeram. It is delivered free of charge to all houses in Sulgrave and Stutchbury by Ann & Peter Mackness, George Metcalfe and Vera Smith. Costs are met by Sulgrave Parish Council. It is provided as a service to the community and those involved in its production cannot accept responsibility for omissions and errors, or necessarily agree with its contents.

Regular Events

Mums & Tots	Every Friday in the Church Hall, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
BB&C Service	2nd Sunday of the month at Culworth Church, 11:00 am
Book Club	4th Monday of each month at the Star Inn, 8:00 pm
Circle Dancing	3rd Thursday of the month at Culworth, 7:30 pm
W.I.	2nd Wednesday of each month at the Church Hall, 7:30 pm

As a result of the recent wet weather, large quantities of fish have been spotted in the stream/river that runs parallel to Manor Road. It is hoped that a Fishing Club can be formed with landing nets, waders etc., available from the village shop. The fish will be fried and sold with chips in the village on a Friday night.

U R G E N T

THE VILLAGE NEEDS NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS

A Parish Council election will be held on Thursday 3rd May.

Several Councillors are not seeking re-election.

Please consider putting your name forward with a view to helping to look after this lovely village.

**THE DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS
NOON on WEDNESDAY APRIL 4th.**

PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH CLERK FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Church News

The last three months have been difficult ones for those of us who worship in our parish church. Because of the discovery of asbestos in the organ blower box, and then in the bellows, we have had to keep the church shut whilst the problem has been eliminated. Air tests have confirmed that the building is safe for use but we are unable to use the organ. Nevertheless, we shall be able to use the church for worship and hopefully obtain the use of a keyboard to provide music. We hope that you will join us on Easter Sunday at 10:00 am when the Rev. Peter Shaw will lead us in worship. Will those who can please come along and decorate the church.

Churchwardens.

Women's Institute News

The March meeting "Art & Sculpture In The Landscape" brought us many objets d'art to think about. Jeremy Sacha's slides showed us examples and he asked for our opinions. Some were funny - some poignant - others bizarre.

This month we look forward to a demonstration of Tai Chi - and to learn from Linda Fallon the philosophy and health benefits derived from the movements. All are welcome, as usual.

Ann Mackness

Saturday April 21st

10.30am to 12.30pm

Sulgrave Church Hall



Phoenix Greeting Cards,
Cakes, Books, DVDs, Videos, Bric-a-brac,
Tombola, Raffle,
Tea & Coffee.

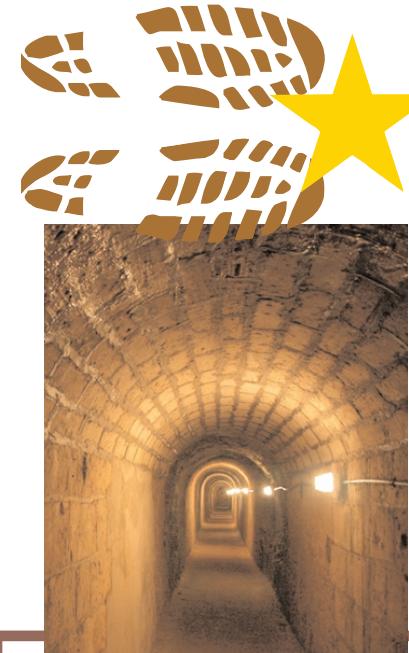
We hope to see you there !

It is with regret that there will not be an NSPCC Plant Sale this year. I am sorry for the late notice but I have been unable to secure the bedding plants etc from the usual source. Thank you all for your support to the NSPCC, through many years

Ronnie Langdon

SUNDAY WALK

April 15th. leaving the old Sulgrave stores at 10.45 and walking to the Crown Pub in Weston for lunch and then walking home again. Some people may decide to meet there for lunch, or walk there and go their own way afterwards. Lets hope it will be a lovely day.



Why not use the OLD WHISKY TUNNEL!

This much talked about old tunnel between Helmdon and Sulgrave is to be re-opened between 1st & 15th April. For those few who are unaware of the tunnel, it was used in the olden days for the transfer of illegal whisky between the two villages. It is hoped that the tunnel will provide a pleasant and dry walk between the two villages. Eventually the tunnel should be candle lit but to begin with torches will be made available at either end.

PNMM.



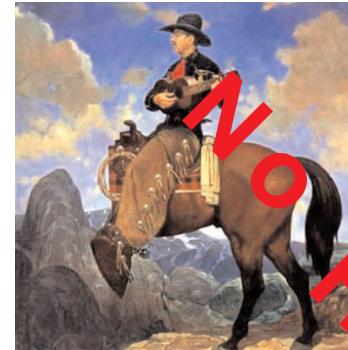
NO DOGS ALLOWED!

This could be the sign of the future, if dog owners do not pick up after their pets. The Parish and District Councils are not anti-dogs, but would like to remind dog owners of their legal responsibility to clean up after their pets if they foul ANY public areas. Dog faeces is not only unpleasant, it is also responsible for a number of potential health risks if ingested, the most serious of which is Toxocariasis resulting from dog roundworms. This disease is responsible for the loss of sight in around 10 British children every year. The District Council employs an Animal Welfare Officer who patrols the District. If an offence is witnessed the dog owner will be issued with a fixed penalty of £50. Some owners have taken the trouble to wrap the dog mess in a plastic bag, but then leave it at the side of the path. This is a littering offence and if the offender is found guilty in the Magistrates Courts the fine could increase to £2,500.00 plus costs and they will get a criminal record. Be a responsible dog owner and clean up after your dog.



Joan Oakley

With the passing of Joan Oakley last month the village has lost one of its enduring characters. The recent profile of Joan in the Benefice Magazine would have given us an insight into her life and the various things she did during her time in Sulgrave, particularly with the Mother's Union and The Children's Service. Joan in her car was a regular sight and until recently she still took friends off to hairdressers! What we shall miss is her wisdom and encouragement – Joan was never judgmental and was always ready to advise. We are all the better for knowing her. Joan Oakley is what made Sulgrave special.



In association with
NORTHANTS TOURING ARTS O



The West Meets Sulgrave

Hank Wangford

&

Reg Meuross

Sulgrave Manor
Sunday 15 April - 7:30 pm

New York Times said: "If you want originality, something that still has the bite and twang that drained out of so much country, the sharp cutting wit and the rawness of hard country, then there is only one man to see. His name is **Hank Wangford.**"

Sulgrave Parish Council

Chairman: Mr K Christy, Wisteria Cottage, Helmdon Road, Sulgrave, Oxon, OX17 2SQ
Parish Clerk: Mrs C Coles, 55 Gillett Road, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 0DR,
Tel No 01295 276229, Fax No 01295 276658, Email colesnccj@btinternet.com

Notes from Parish Council Meeting held 22nd. February 2007

The Chair introduced the meeting by congratulating the Clerk on achieving her Certificate in Local Council Administration.

Councillors Reports

Local Policing Issues

The council had still not received a reply to their letter sent to the Police Authority on 9th January 2007.

Sulgrave Parish Council 22/2/2007 (Continued)

Cleaning of drain gullies

The drain gullies had been cleaned by Atkins although some had been missed. These would be reported to Atkins.

Castle Green

Hedge laying has taken place on the Green as part of the Wildlife Enhancement Project. Cllr Cherry has kindly agreed to dispose of the trimmings.

Grant Applications – The VSSU application has been sent off but a Health and Safety document must be submitted by the end of March.

Following questions raised at last months meeting the Castle Green Committee has met and revisited the Terms of Reference adopted by the Parish Council in July 2004. The following points were noted:

- a) They confirm that all funds raised are intended exclusively for Castle Green projects. They will be placed in a separate bank account, and managed by the committee in accordance with normal Parish Council regulations. Annual accounts will be presented to the village at the Annual Assembly meeting.
- b) The committee is expected to operate on its own initiative within the overall guidance of the Parish Council, and Parish Council decisions can overrule a committee decision.
- c) In many cases it has been necessary to involve the Parish Council when making grant applications because the council owns the land on behalf of the village.

Update on Underground Cabling and Street Lamps

Cllr Cherry first referred to a letter dated 11th December 2006 from Central Networks which detailed the forthcoming work in the village.

As four of the poles support street lighting brackets, it will be necessary for the Parish Council (PC) to provide replacement columns. Central Networks will provide the electrical service to the column free of charge provided the column is placed within three metres of the original bracket position or a mains underground electricity cable. As the lighting brackets were left on after previous work was carried out, Cllr Cherry asked why the PC would have to provide replacement columns. Central Networks replied in an email dated 24th January that once the wires are removed by them, the PC would need to adopt ownership of the pole. As some of the poles are in poor condition the PC would need to have the poles inspected at least once every two years using the approved testing device of a Mattson Borer which involves excavating around the base of the pole and taking a bored sample for inspection for wood rot. The PC would also need their own public liability insurance to cover the possibility of the pole falling especially as the stabilising factor of the normal wires will be removed and the pole becomes free standing. It was felt that although these points were indicated by letter to Parish Councils involved in underground schemes, they were not acted on and as soon as one of the poles falls or snaps the PC's will try to pass the repair etc onto the relevant electricity company as it was on an electricity owned pole. This is important when council members change over time and the agreement becomes a distant memory.

Cllr Cherry then met with Doug Millard of ABB who identified the four lights that will need replacing. The cost of each light is £265.00, which is for a basic lamp standard.

Sulgrave Parish Council 22/2/2007 (Continued)

In the allocated programme of works, Central Networks schedule the work to take place at the end of 2007, possibly in early 2008. Columns are erected before the underground cabling is done.

Cllr Cherry agreed to liaise with Central Networks about the programme of works as there will be financial implications to the PC. The Clerk will get advice from NALC as to whether the PC can get a public works loan to pay for lighting. At a later stage the PC will undertake a consultation exercise with the village about replacement lamps.

Finance Report

a) Cheques

The following payments were approved:-

£234.90 – Parish Clerk (hours)
£21.08 – Parish Clerk (mileage)
£50.00 – float for Parish Clerk
£129.00 – Sulgrave Church Hall (hire of hall for meetings)
£102.00 – NALC Subscription for 2007
£151.48 – Powergen

Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005

The Chair referred to the recent DEFRA publication and advised that several questions have to be answered before a Parish Council can consider making a dog control order. These were - Is there a specific problem with dogs on the area of land that is being considered for the control order? If it is proposed to ban dogs, are there other areas of land in the parish available to dog owners where they can exercise their dogs? Is there community support for dog control orders – amongst both the dog owning and the non-dog owning public? The answers to all these questions was yes. The Clerk would contact Helen Hunt of South Northants Council to seek further advice on the matter.

Bus Service

The Chair felt that the main road through Sulgrave should be gritted as there is now a regular bus service. The Clerk would write to NCC and copy Cllr Ben Smith.

No of Parish Council Seats

The Chair noted that a recent document from SNC reviewed the current number of seats on the Parish Council. A suggestion was made to reduce the number from seven to six in view of the size of this village. This has now been agreed by SNC and the Parish Council are waiting for the formal order to be sent.

Update on Planning Applications

S/2007/0114/PT, Reduce Tall Stem (upper crown) at Sulgrave House, Little Street. Cllrs Powell, Cherry, Moore and Roberts and the Tree Warden had all given their approval. The council would advise they had no objections to make.

A letter dated 13th February 2007 from SNC regarding Application A/2006/0476/LB, Conservatory to rear, part rebuilding of boundary wall at Rectory Farm, Little Street had been received re the appeal against refusal of planning permission. This application has come to council twice before. A date for the hearing has been set for Tuesday 27th March at 10am at the Council Offices in Springfields, Towcester.

Sulgrave Parish Council

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Notes from Parish Council Meeting held 22nd March 2007

This was the last council meeting of the current elected council.

Matters Arising

Cleaning of Drain Gullies

The gullies that were missed before have now been reported. Atkins will clean them by the end of April.

Speeding Boards

These will be placed in the village by 4th April and have to be returned by 2nd May.

Flytipping up Gated Road

Cllr Cherry has checked the area and the rubbish has been cleared away.

Councillors Reports

Allotment Area

Cllr Roberts noted that Philip Daynes has now cleared the area and dug it over. A past allotment area has removed his fruit trees. New interest for a plot has been expressed by a resident of Towrise and the Clerk is to send him paperwork. A note will be put in the newsletter/website advising villagers that allotments are available now.

Newsletter Direction

The council discussed the fact that the newsletter was very thin in content this month.

The councillors agreed that parish council minutes should always be included, especially as they pay for the production of the newsletter. The Clerk would try to ensure that the main points from each council meeting are put in the newsletter for the following month. The council also agreed that organisations such as South Northants Council and South Northants Volunteer Bureau should be allowed to advertise for free if their adverts would be of benefit to the village. Local businesses should also be allowed to advertise their services free of charge. A suggestion was made from the floor for local businesses to announce their skills via the newsletter.

A huge vote of thanks was given to Tom Cockeram in the way he produces the newsletter each month with such dedication and enthusiasm.

Update on Action Plan for Pocket Park/Play Area

Although Cllr Moore was absent from the meeting he had sent a written report which was read out. Sulgrave Charities have confirmed the grant of £1000.00.

An order has been placed for the replacement swings and delivery should be next week. A site meeting has been held at Pocket Park with the play equipment provider but there were some complications on the original plans. A quote for different options is due soon.

Sulgrave Parish Council 22/3/2007 (Continued)

The Chair thanked Sulgrave Charities for their generous grant. This item will be carried forward to the next council meeting as the new council will need to revisit the inspection report dated June 2006 and relook at the recommendations given by Cllr Moore in his email dated 9th October 2006.

The Chair, on behalf of the council, gave his appreciation to Cllr Moore for all his work and efforts in Pocket Park even though he only had a small team of people that had helped him.

Finance Report

The following cheques were approved for payment:

£105.60 to Mr Colin Wootton in lieu of payment for website charges to Lycos
£127.38 to Jon Dixon Signs Ltd (three signs for Pocket Park)
£73.41 to ABB (lighting)

To approve the transfer of £1250.00 from the Community Account into the Burial Ground Fund. This was money that had been borrowed some time ago to help with the shop renovation work. This was proposed by Cllr Pollak, seconded by Cllr Cherry and all the councillors voted in favour.

Planning Applications

S/2007/0095/P, Erection of a replacement conservatory and construction of a pitched roof over existing flat roofed kitchen extension at The Old Vicarage, Magpie Road. This has now been accepted by South Northants Council.

S/2006/1675/LB and S/2006/1674/P, Conversion of traditional buildings into three dwellings (revision of S/2005/0884/LB), amended design to proposed barn conversions with changes to external openings and internal layouts at Dial House Farm, Magpie Road. This application has been accepted by SNC but only includes the existing three barn conversions. New plans are about to be submitted for the two new builds. If they are submitted before 3rd May, this council will have to decide whether to accept them or not.

In conclusion the Chair thanked the councillors for all their hard work and commitment as this was their last council meeting before elections in May. In reply, Cllr Roberts, on behalf of the councillors thanked the Chair for his guidance, professionalism and guided approach. They had all worked together as a team and they thanked him for his valued experience given to them over the years.

Date and time of next meeting

Annual Assembly Meeting on 19th April 2007 at 7.30pm in the Church Hall. This is not a parish council meeting but a chance to find out what has happened during the past year. Reports will be given about the work of the County/District Councillors, the local Police, the Community Shop, Castle Green, the website and Sulgrave Charities. Please come along to find out what work has been done on your behalf.

Forthcoming Elections

There will be an election in May and several existing councillors will not be standing again. If you want to join the Parish Council and really make a difference to the village you live in, please contact the Clerk for a nomination form. They have to be returned to SNC by noon on Wednesday 4th April. Further details are available from the Clerk or via the website.

April 2007

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
30						1 Benefice Holy Communion 10:00 am T. Mand.
2	3	4 Deadline for nominations for the Parish Council	5	6 Mums & Tots 1:30pm Church Hall	7	8 Holy Communion 10:00 am Sulgrave Village Walk 2:30 pm from Shop
9	10	11 W.I. Meeting 7:30pm Church Hall	12 Circle Dancing 7:30 pm Culworth	13 Mums & Tots 1:30pm Church Hall	14	15 Evensong 6:00 pm Sulgrave Hank Wangford 7:30 Sulgrave Manor
16	17	18	19 Parish Assembly 7:30pm Church Hall	20 Mums & Tots 1:30pm Church Hall DEADLINE March Newsletter	21	22 Mattins 10:00 am Sulgrave
23 Book Club 8:00pm Star Inn <i>A Little Love Song</i> Michelle Magorian	24	25	26	27 Mums & Tots 1:30pm Church Hall	28	29 Benefice Holy Communion 10:00 am Culworth